

2010 Fall Turkey Hunting Regulations

Season Dates

Archery and Shotgun

Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 Two turkeys per permit.

Bag Limit

Legal Equipment

With a fall turkey hunting permit, hunters may harvest turkeys with either a shotgun, bow and arrow or *crossbow.

Shotgun – Shotguns 10-gauge or smaller; shells containing shot size 2 to 7½. Slugs are illegal. Unlawful to have a loaded shotgun in a vehicle while on a public road. Shell in the barrel or magazine is considered loaded.

Archery – Longbows or compound bows are allowed. Arrows must have either a sharpened hunting head with a blade of at least 7/16-inch radius and total cutting edge of at least 3 inches or a blunt (bludgeon) head with a diameter of at least 9/16 inch.

* Any person who has lost an arm or lacks use of an arm through a permanent impairment that renders that person incapable of drawing a longbow, and it is verified in writing by a physician, shall be permitted to use a crossbow for hunting turkey during the archery season, provided he or she has obtained a special crossbow authorization from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Turkey Hunting During Firearm Deer Season

Turkey hunting is allowed during the November firearm deer hunting season, Nov. 13-21. Hunter orange is not required of fall turkey hunters, EXCEPT when hunting turkeys during the November firearm deer season, when they must display at least 400 square inches of hunter orange on their head, chest and back.

Transportation

The head or one leg must remain naturally attached to the carcass until the turkey is delivered to a commercial processing facility or the hunter's home.

Permits

Each hunter may have no more than two fall turkey permits. Permits are valid statewide. Permits must be signed by the permittee. It is unlawful to transfer or lend a permit to another person.

Tagging

Each permit contains two tags. Use the bottom tag first. Immediately after a turkey is taken, the hunter must punch or notch the permit tag showing the date the bird was taken. Punching/notching the permit tag automatically cancels the permit tag. This permit must be kept with the permit holder and/or the turkey at all times. When the turkey is not with the permit holder, the entire permit tag must be attached to the turkey.

Possession

It is unlawful for any person other than the successful permittee (hunter) to possess any turkey or any portion of it. However, any person may receive as a gift any portion of the turkey, provided a statement of such gift is available for inspection. The statement shall include: the hunter's name, telephone number, permit number, species and quantity of each, signature of donor, name of recipient, and date of transfer.

Shooting Hours

Thirty minutes before sunrise to sunset. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take turkeys perched in trees, before sunrise.

Hunter Age Restriction

Hunters of any age may hunt turkeys. Those shotgun hunters under age 12 must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older.

Hunter Education

Hunters ages 12 through 29 must have completed Firearm Hunter Education when hunting turkeys with a firearm or crossbow. An Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate is available for those who have not completed Hunter Education. Hunters under age 12 and those using the Exemption Certificate must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older. That accompanying hunter must, if age 19-29, have firearm hunter education certification. Bow hunter education is not required for hunting turkeys.

Habitat Stamp

All residents 16 years of age and older and all nonresidents, regardless of age, must have a current Habitat Stamp to hunt turkeys. Only one Habitat Stamp is needed for all hunting in any year. Residents who hold a veteran fee-exempt or 69-and-older permit do not need to purchase a Habitat Stamp to hunt turkeys. They must carry the veteran fee-exempt permit or 69-and-older permit while hunting. Persons hunting on their own land with a landowner permit do not need a Habitat Stamp.

Hunter Survey

At the end of the season, hunters who purchased permits online may receive an e-mail survey that is used to determine hunter success and total harvest. Those receiving surveys are asked to promptly reply. It is important when buying permits online that hunters use an updated e-mail address. Survey results are posted at **OutdoorNebraska.org**.

Baiting/Decoys/Calls

Unlawful to hunt turkeys with the aid of bait (placing grain or other feed to constitute an enticement). Unlawful to use any live decoy or electric call when hunting turkeys.

Get Permission

Obtain permission before hunting on private land. Hunting with a rifle is prohibited within 200 yards of an occupied dwelling or feedlot and hunting with all other equipment is prohibited within 100 yards, unless permission has been granted by the owner or tenant. It is unlawful to shoot from the right-of-way of a public road.

Regulations and Statutes

The following are links to the state's regulations and statutes:

Regulations:

<http://OutdoorNebraska.ne.gov/admin/regulations/regulations.asp>

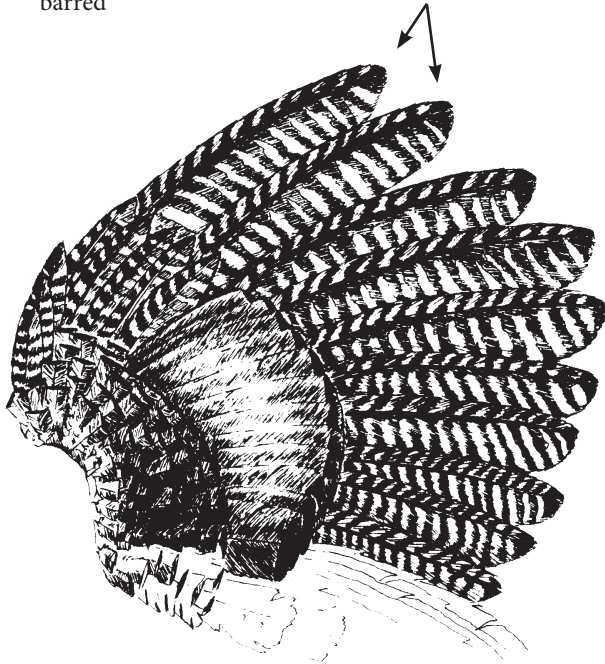
Statutes:

<http://law.justia.com/nebraska/codes/s37index/s37index.html>

Determining Age and Sex of a Turkey

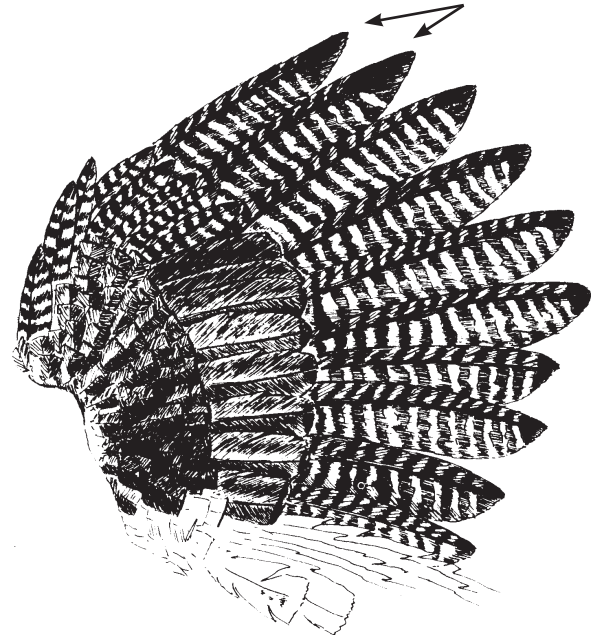
Adult Wing

Ninth and 10th primaries are rounded and barred



Juvenile Wing

Ninth and 10th primaries are pointed and indistinctly barred at the tip



In the fall, use the presence of a small beard and button spurs to separate juvenile males from juvenile females.

Pine Ridge Complex: The Pine Ridge area has the state's best turkey populations, plenty of public access, and is where Merriam turkeys primarily are found. Best access areas: Pine Ridge District of the Nebraska National Forest, Fort Robinson State Park area, Gilbert Baker, Ponderosa, Peterson, Metcalf, Bordeaux, and Bighorn wildlife management areas.

Fall Turkey Hunting Map and Public Access Options

Niobrara River drainages: Boyd, Keya Paha and northern Rock and Brown counties have good numbers of birds and public access areas.

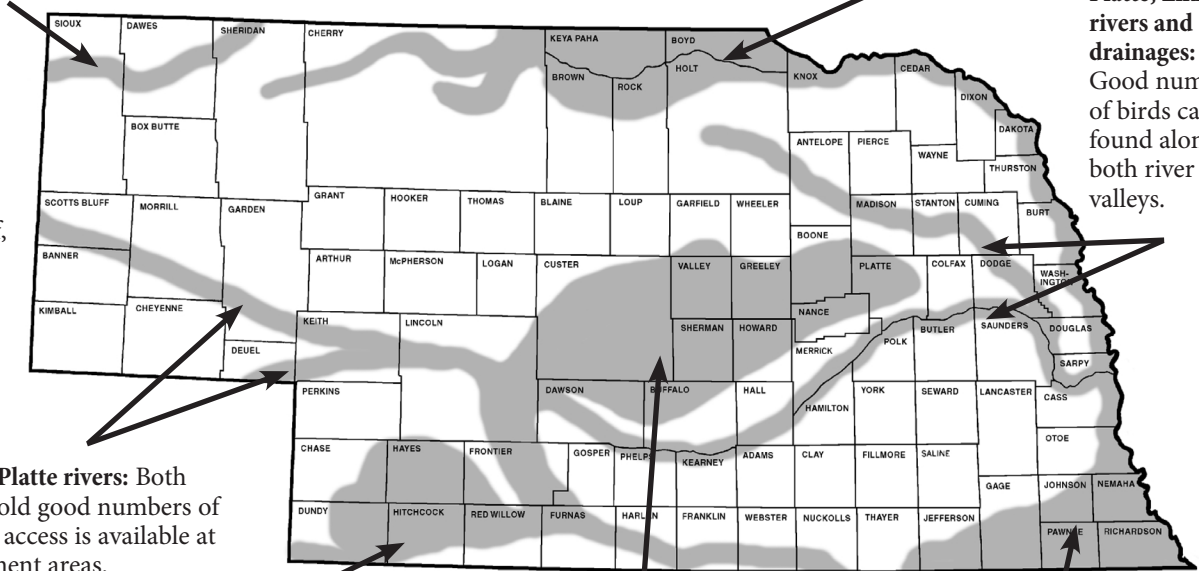
Platte, Elkhorn rivers and drainages: Good numbers of birds can be found along both river valleys.

North and South Platte rivers: Both river drainages hold good numbers of birds, and public access is available at wildlife management areas.

Southwest reservoirs, Republican River drainages: 40,000 acres of public access at Harlan, Medicine Creek, Swanson, Red Willow, and Enders reservoirs.

Central Loess Hills and Loup River system

Southeast WMAs: Many wildlife management areas in the southeast hold good numbers of birds and provide excellent public access.



Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers: Report game law violations to Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers at (800) 742-7627.